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Message Text

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50
ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 DODE-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 CG-00 DRC-01 FEA-02

NEA-10 /071 W
---------- 000111
R 171100Z JAN 74
FM AMCONSUL LUANDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2420
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

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PASS NAVY

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: OCLR, ETRN; ENRG; AO, PO
SUBJ: BUNKERING AT LUANDA NORMAL EXCEPT RE DIESEL

REF: STATE 007876

1. ACCORDING SHIPPING AGENTS HERE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT HAS SET UP FOUR-TIER ALLOCATION PRIORITY SYSTEM FOR FUEL OIL. ORDER OF PRECEDENCE: (1) SHIPS REGULARLY CALLING HERE, (2) SHIPS OWNED BY COMPANIES WHOSE VESSELS SERVE ANGOLAN PORTS, (3) SHIPS AND COMPANIES OWNING SHIPS WHICH PREVIOUSLY CALLED ANGOLAN PORTS AND (4) ALL OTHERS. SO FAR, EXISTENCE PRIORITY SYSTEM UNIMPORTANT IN THAT ALL FOUR CATEGORIES RECEIVING ALL FUEL REQUESTED. HOWEVER, ONE SOURCE REPORTS RUMOR THAT SHIPS IN "ALL OTHER" CATEGORY MAY IN FUTURE FIND THEIR REQUESTS AUTOMATICALLY CUT BY FIXED PERCENTAGE.

2. DUE NATURE LOCALLY-PRODUCED CRUDE, LUANDA REFINERY CAPABILITIES AND LOCAL POL CONSUMPTION PATTERNS (I.E. NEG-LIGIBLE USE FUEL OIL FOR HEATING, FACTORIES), ANGOLA PRODUCES EXCESS FUEL OIL, MUCH OF WHICH EXPORTED. THUS IT PROBABLE
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LUANDA WILL BE AMONG LAST OF WORLDS PORTS TO FACE SERIOUS FUEL

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SHORTAGE.

3. DIESEL FUEL AVAILABILITY (USED BY U.S. NAVY) WHOLLY DIFFERENT STORY. THERE SIMPLY IS VERY LITTLE TO BE HAD. FOREIGN FLAG FISHING VESSELS FINDING THEMSELVES STRANDED FOR LONG PERIODS/ LOCAL SUPPLIERS (PRINCIPALLY TEXACO) APPARENTLY NOT ABOVE LETTING DESPERATE SKIPPERS BID AGAINST EACH OTHER FOR SMALL AMOUNT LOCAL GOVERNMENT WILL PERMIT TO BE SOLD.

4. COMMENT: GOP RELUCTANCE PERMIT NORMAL VOLUME SALES OF MARITIME DIESEL NOT UNREASONABLE AT PRESENT IN VIEW PRECARIOUS LEVEL STOCKS, RECENT EXPERIENCE WITH UNRELIABLE REPLENISHMENT AND ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE DIESEL FOR LAND TRANSPORT.
BRIGGS

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